US Committee for Refugees

6692. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the U. S. Committee for Refugees (USCR) had urged upon the Government to halt the repatriation of Tamil refugees to Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether USCR had also urged upon other countries to halt repatriation of regges from their respective soils; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for such a call to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALFIRO): (a) to (c). Government are aware of the report by the USCR, a non-government body, in this regard. Repatriation of Sri Lankan Tamil refugees is continuing on the basis of their desire to return and the assurance received from the Sri Lankan Government regarding their security and rehabilitation.

(d) Government have not information.

(e) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Strike by NDMC Employees

6694. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report regarding strike by the employees of New Delhi Municipal Committee had been submitted to the Union Government by the Delhi Administration;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (c). A section of workers of New Delhi Municipal Committee struct work from 3.12.1991 to 22.1.1992. Their main demand was the extension of Siva Shankar Committee Scale to the left out categories of New Delhi Municipal Committee. The Administration has not so far considered it advisable to extend the scales to the remaining employees of NDMC because such extension among others could lead to similar demands from the employees of other civic bodies and branches of administration in Delhi and the financial implications would be staggering.

[*English*]

Starvation of Tribal Students Living in Hostels of Kerala

6695. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that students residing in tribal hostels in Kerala are on the bring of starvation;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (c). The Govern-